

BRINGING THE COURT AND MEDIATION ROOM INTO THE CLASSROOM

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Abstract

This article discusses a new approach to teaching civil dispute resolution at university. Students in the first-year law subject Dispute Resolution witnessed a civil dispute in the classroom by watching a simulated dispute on DVD. The DVD covered the major aspects of dispute resolution, including negotiation, mediation and court hearings. The following is a discussion of the pedagogical goals behind this approach, in particular the importance of incorporating a variety of instructional methods in the teaching of law and the value of contextual learning. It also provides some preliminary findings on the effectiveness of this method of teaching, based on initial feedback from both teachers and students of Dispute Resolution.

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